

NOTE ON SOME PREOCCUPIED MOLLUSCAN GENERIC NAMES AND
PROPOSED NEW GENERA OF THE FAMILY ZONITIDÆ.

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WHEN Professor Pilsbry in 1894 published his classification of the Helicidæ—which, with its masterly grasp of detail, in many instances revolutionized our previous conception of the inter-relations of this enormous group of land shells—many malacologists were led to hope that the remaining Helicoids would in due course receive similar treatment from his able pen. These hopes, however, have not been realized, and a satisfactory systematic arrangement of this numerous group as yet remains a desideratum.

The classification of these molluscs adopted in Pfeiffer's *Nomenclator* is in many cases, of necessity, somewhat antiquated, while the arrangement of the Naninidæ by Dr. G. Pfeiffer¹ does not appear to have met with much approval. An important step in the right direction was made by the late W. T. Blanford, with the co-operation of Lieut.-Colonel Godwin-Austen, in the first volume of the *Mollusca of The Fauna of India*, and by the latter in *The Mollusca of India*. This, however, covers but a comparatively small portion of the whole field, and much remains to be done.

In attempting a workable scheme of classification of the Helicoids, other than the Helicidæ proper, I do not profess to fill this lacuna. The arrangement which I hope shortly to present for publication will simply be a preliminary synopsis, and will be based mainly on conchological and geographical data.

In the course of my search through literature in this connexion several generic or sectional names were found to be preoccupied in other branches of zoology, and new names are now proposed in lieu of these. Although two of the genera in question do not strictly come within the scope of the present paper, pertaining as they do to the family Helicidæ, it has been considered expedient to include them here. A number of species, hitherto assigned to various genera from time to time by different authors, were considered sufficiently distinct from their whilom congeners to warrant the creation of new genera for their reception, and the names for these are also appended.

To Mr. J. H. Ponsonby, whose unrivalled knowledge of the Helicoids is always so ungrudgingly placed at my service, I am indebted on this, as on so many previous occasions, for many valuable hints and suggestions.

ZOPHOS,² n.n.

In the year 1860 no less than three genera were named after the celebrated Danish conchologist Mörch. Arthur Adams proposed *Mörchia* for marine shells in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural*

¹ Abh. Naturw. Ver. Hamburg-Altona, vol. vii, Abt. ii, p. 1, 1883.

² ζόφος, darkness.

History, ser. III, vol. v, pt. iv,¹ published in April. E. von Martens utilized the name in *Die Heliceen*, 2nd ed., p. 72, for a section of *Helix*, the only species being *H. concolor*; while Mayer associated it with a genus of fossil Streptoneura in the *Journal de Conchyliologie*, pt. iii, bearing the date July, 1860,² but probably not published until 1861. I have been unable to find the actual date at which it was issued, but the copy in the British Museum is stamped with the date "July 5th, 1861", and as this publication has, I believe, invariably been published long after the dates printed on the covers, it may safely be assumed that Mayer's name has no claim to rank; since the parts of the Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. have always been issued punctually, the only question remains as to the date of *Die Heliceen*. The publisher, Mr. W. Engelmann, of Leipzig, on being questioned on this point, obligingly replied that the records of the firm have not been kept so far back, but he is sure the work was not sent out until late in the year 1860, so that Adams' name undoubtedly has priority, and for von Martens' genus I therefore propose the name *Zophos*, taking as the type *Helix concolor*, Mörch, from Porto Rico, Dominica, and Guadeloupe.

NITOR,³ n.n.

In the same work (p. 59) von Martens also defined the genus *Thalassia*, taking as type *Helix subrugata*, Pfr. Agassiz in his *Nomenclator* states that Dejean⁴ published a genus *Thalassia*, but as this work contains no diagnoses or definitions of any of the groups, and as moreover the name appears subsequently to have been altered to *Thalassa*, I intended to have retained von Martens' name. Mr. T. Iredale, however, has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that a genus of birds has been properly defined under the name *Thalassia*,⁵ and I therefore substitute the above designation.

CYCLISCUS,⁶ n.n.

In 1850 Albers proposed the name *Rotula* in *Die Heliceen*, 1st ed., for a genus containing *Helix Bensoni*, v. d. Busch, and *H. detecta*, Fér., while von Martens in the second edition restricted the genus to *H. detecta*, the other name having proved to be a synonym of *H. serrula*, Bens., a species referred to the genus *Khasiella*. The name *Rotula* being preoccupied in Echinoderma (Agassiz, *Monographie des Scutelles*, 1841, p. 23), Albers' name has to share the fate of the preceding two, and *Helix detecta*, Fér., from the Island of Bourbon becomes the type of *Cycliscus*.

NESÆCIA,⁷ n.n.

Mörch created the genus *Rotularia* in the *Journal de Conchyliologie*, vol. xx, p. 308, 1872, but the name having already been proposed for a genus of fossil Foraminifera by De France in *Dict. Sci. Nat.*,

¹ p. 301.

² p. 309.

³ *Nitor*, brightness.

⁴ *Catalogue des Coléoptères*, 2nd ed., 1834, p. 430.

⁵ Bonaparte, *Comptes Rendus Ac. Sc.*, xliii, p. 645, 1856.

⁶ κυκλίσκος, a flat cake.

⁷ νῆσος, island; οἶκον, home.

vol. xlv, p. 322,¹ 1827, a new designation becomes necessary. Type *Helix Massoni*, Behn., from the Nicobar Islands.

KERÆA,² n.n.

This name is proposed for *Julus*, Wollaston, *Testacea Atlantica*, 1878, p. 80, not *Julus*, Leach, Zool. Misc., vol. iii, p. 32, 1817, a genus of Myriopoda. Type *Patula Garachicoensis*, Woll., from Tenerife, Canary Islands. Pilsbry places *Julus* as a section of *Pyramidula* (*Man. Conch.* (2), vol. ix, p. 341, 1894).

RUTHVENIA, n.n.

When this writer proposed the name *Sykesia*³ in lieu of *Austenina*,⁴ a sub-genus of *Plectopylis*, Mr. E. Ruthven Sykes pointed out that Pomel had already in 1883⁵ published a genus of Echinoderms under this appellation. Thus a new name is required for this group, and I propose that *Sykesia* be replaced by *Ruthvenia*.

Pomel's work, which contains 176 new generic names, appears to have escaped the notice of the recorders, and although a careful search has failed to reveal any other instances of names of Helicoids being invalidated by this publication, malacologists working in other divisions of Mollusca should not fail to consult the work in question in addition to the usual records.

In 1899, when splitting up the genus *Plectopylis* into several subdivisions, I expressed the opinion⁶ that when the anatomy of the species referred to this section should be investigated, they would probably be found to differ considerably from typical *Plectopylis*, and that they would rank as a separate genus. This has since been confirmed by Lieut.-Colonel Godwin-Austen, who has examined the soft parts of *Sykesia biciliata*, Pfr.,⁷ and is of opinion that it is closely related to *Thysanota*.

ARCHÆOPLECTA, n.g.

Shell trochoid, finely ribbed, margins of peristome acute, columellar margin reflected, overhanging the narrow umbilical perforation.

Nanina (Gray), auct. (in part).

Type: *Helix stenotrypta*, A. Braun, from the Lower Miocene (Aquitanean), Mayence Basin.

The type-species of this new genus has been stated by Sandberger to be related to *Eulota ravida*, Bens., from China, but the specimens in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), to which I have had access, do not bear out this view, as they show no trace of spiral sculpture and the columella is different in character. It bears a greater resemblance, in my opinion, to some species of *Hemiplecta*, notably *H. Everetti*, Smith,

¹ Not p. 231 as given in Scudder's *Nomenclator*.

² *κεραία*, a trifle.

³ *Science Gossip*, N.S., vol. iii, p. 332, 1897.

⁴ *Tom. cit.*, p. 300.

⁵ *Classif. méth. et gén. Éch. viv. et foss.*, p. 88.

⁶ *Science Gossip*, N.S., vol. vi, p. 149.

⁷ *Land and Freshwater Mollusca of India*, vol. ii, p. 196, 1907.

from the Malay Archipelago. In order to signalize this fact, without inferring actual relationship, I suggest the above name for this group.

ALLOGENES,¹ n.g.

Shell planorbiform, vitreous, shining; spire immersed, periphery keeled or angulated, the keel or angulation entering the median region of the aperture.

Type: *Vitrea prodigiosa*, Ancey, from Djurdjura, Algeria.

The species on which I base this new genus is so peculiar that it was compared by Ancey to *Happia ammoniformis* and *H. vitrina* from South America. It also bears some superficial resemblance to *Guestieria Powisiana* from New Grenada. *Vitrea isserica*, Let., and *V. djurdjurensis*, Deb., are congeneric with it.

DROUETIA, n.g.

Shell hyaline, very finely striated, and covered with excessively fine spirals, imperforate, the reflexed columella slightly twisted.

Type: *Helix atlantica*, Mor. & Dr., from the Azores.

A monotypic genus named in honour of the late Mons. Henri Drouet, a noted French malacologist, who described several mollusca from these islands.

HAWAIIA, n.g.

Shell zonitoid, vitreous, finely and regularly costulate, openly umbilicated.

Hyalinia and *Pseudohyalinia*, auct. (in part).

Type: *Helix Kawaiensis*, Pfr.

Confined to the Sandwich Islands.

PSICHION,² n.g.

Shell turbinate, finely striated transversely, and with microscopic close spirals. Umbilicus perforate, partly covered by the columellar margin of the peristome.

Type: *Helix miliaris*, Morel., from the Comoro Islands.

THAPSIELLA, n.g.

Shell zonitoid, shining, narrowly perforate, finely striated transversely, and covered with dense microscopic spirals, narrowly perforated, the umbilicus partly covered by the columellar margin of the peristome.

Thapsia, auct. (in part).

Type: *Thapsia Masukuensis*, Smith, from Central Africa.

Differs from *Thapsia*, the type of which is *H. troglodytes*, Morelet, in the sculpture, which is devoid of the decussation characterizing that genus. The species are nearly all small, and range over Central Africa and the east coast, whereas *Thapsia* is found on the west coast and its islands.

¹ ἄλλογενής, a stranger.

² ψίχιον, a fragment.

ERRATUM.—By an unfortunate *lapsus calami* the type of the new genus *Hawaiiia* on p. 272 was stated to be *Helix Kawaiensis*, Pfr.; this should read *Helix Hawaiiensis*, Ancey. .

G. K. GUDE.

AMPHIBLEMA,¹ n.g.

Shell trochoid, thin, finely striated, the striæ decussated by fine, slightly undulating spirals above, base more polished, and spirals much finer, umbilicus sub-covered, perforate.

Oxytes, Tryon (in part), non Benson.

Type: *Helix eucharis*, Desh., from Madagascar.

KALIDOS,² n.g.

Shell depressed, conoid, finely striated, and decussated by fine or coarse spirals, periphery rounded or angular, umbilicus small.

Rhysota, Tryon (in part), non Albers; *Xestina*, Tryon (in part), non Pfeffer.

Type: *Helix Ekongoensis*, Angas, from Madagascar.

Apparently confined to Madagascar. *Helix Cleamesi*, Smith, I also refer to this genus.

KALENDYMA,³ n.g.

Shell depressed conoid, rather solid, whorls shouldered above, with a shallow groove a little above the periphery, ascending the greater part of the spire close to the channelled suture.

Hemiplecta, Tryon, non Albers.

Type: *Helix compluviata*, Cox, from the Solomon Islands.

I know no other shell which can be classed with it. The species of *Taphrospira*, Blanford, from India bear some superficial resemblance to it.

ELAPHROCONCHA,⁴ n.g.

Shell depressed, thin, fragile, translucent corneous, amber-coloured, dull above, polished below, finely striated, last whorl dilated towards aperture, more than twice the size of the penultimate whorl, impervious.

Type: *Hemiplecta internota*, Smith, from Lombok Island, Malay Archipelago. To this genus I also refer *H. rufolineata*, Smith, and *H. Fruhstorferi*, Martens, from the same island.

ASPERITAS,⁵ n.g.

Shell trochoid, rather solid, opaque, distantly striated, covered with incised spirals and obliquely descending rugæ. Periphery acutely or obtusely keeled, umbilicus sub-covered, perforate.

Xestina and *Xesta*, auct. (in part).

Type: *Xestina rugosissima*, Möllendorff, from Roma Island, Malay Archipelago.

Helix inquinata, v. d. Busch, and *Xesta Dammaensis*, Smith, together with some other species from these islands, form a fairly homogeneous group.

¹ ἀμφίβλημα, a covering.

³ κάλός, beautiful; ἐνδύμα, garment.

⁵ *Asperitas*, roughness.

² καλεῖδος, lovely vision.

⁴ ἐλαφρός, light; κόγχη, shell.